

JOHN R. MARKS, III, MAYOR



October 6, 2003

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The Honorable Tony Grippa, Chair
Leon County Board of Commissioners
301 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Chairman Grippa: *Tony*

Some time ago, the City Commission requested that I raise the issue of public safety dispatch with you at a Mayor/Chair meeting, the purpose of such a discussion being how we can best assure that community needs are being met through the efforts of TPD and the Leon County Sheriff's office. Obviously with us now looking at advance life support services in the county, this issue has an even higher profile.


Your response when this issue was raised was that essentially you believed that TPD is perhaps best equipped to provide the service but that you believed a joint effort was required and you did not wish to surreptitiously or inadvertently undermine the authority of an elected sheriff.

I agree with you that a joint dispatch certainly appears to be in the community's best interests and that we should not duplicate equipment purchases and other resources. We should also work to make sure that any unnecessary additions to response time are eliminated in order to save precious minutes which may sometimes mean the difference between life and death for one of our citizens or someone who is visiting our community.

It is with all of the above in mind that I'd like to initiate a request to you for a joint city/county workshop on the topic of public safety dispatch. The sooner we can schedule such a workshop the faster we may be able to work through a process which serves the public safety interests in an enhanced manner. I would like to suggest a date of Wednesday, October 15, 1:00 p.m. as one alternative. If that date and time does not work for the county, please provide some suggested dates.

I believe this is something that can be resolved with no losers and all of us being winners, especially our citizens.

Sincerely,



John Marks
Mayor

JM/

cc: Members of the City Commission
Board of Leon County Commissioners
Sheriff Larry Campbell
Anita R. Favors, City Manager
Parwez Alam, County Administrator
Tom Coe, Assistant City Manager
Walt McNeil, Police Chief
Tom Quillin, Fire Chief

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